

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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Number 5

WITHIN THE WEEK

If the Poles did not have weightier considerations to engage their attention, they might, last wk, have observed that "This is where we came in." The war, you will remember, started in Poland, in Sept '39. There are observers brash enough to forecast that it may end there—possibly as early as Sept '44. Be that as it may, Poland is again a battleground.

But this time it isn't the Nazis who hold the upper hand. The haughty Hun is on the run. And "run" is a pretty accurate description of German movements on the Eastern front.

There has been considerable comment on the marked difference in enemy resistance as between the Eastern and Western fronts. Several factors must be given due consideration. Not the least of these is the psychological effect on the Nazi mind of three yrs of fighting the limitless Russian hordes. In the East the Nazis—officers and men alike—know they are licked. In the West, they have that lesson yet to learn. German officers aligned against the Russians are sick of the war. Yet they know that to falter or fail is to face the firing squad. But they can surrender. Many have been overcome by the Red army. There is a clear suspicion that others have placed themselves in a position where early entrapment is inevitable. For more than a month now, Germany has been losing an

average of a division a day in the East. The Reds are making sure they shan't face the Nazi enemy thru another Russian winter.

In the West, we have met a resistance that is more characteristic of the accepted Nazi behavior—cunning, cruel, stubborn, fanatic. We have had to fight for every ft of gained ground. But there are indications that progress may be more rapid from now on in.

Several things have slowed us down—Gen'l Montgomery's natural caution and earnest desire to conserve the lives of his men; the unfavorable weather, which has not made it possible for our air arm to give full support to ground forces; the fact that our really heavy armament is only now—in the battle for St Lo—coming into action. Personnel and equipment are beginning to pile up. There is pressing need for more room for increasing forces. And we shall presently have it.

ITALY: We should not lose sight of the fact that our armies make progress, if not headlines. Florence will very presently be in our hands.

SAIPAN: Those who participated rate it not only toughest, but most strategically important campaign of Pacific; complain that it was "given the brush-off" as to publicity, because of other lime-light attractions.



SHIFTING SANDS

Two widely conflicting rumors are emerging from Washington these days. One story has it that Allied leaders are wholly unprepared for German surrender; that sudden crumbling of Nazi defense would catch us in worse predicament than downfall of Mussolini. Another version has it that peace terms are all worked out, salted away, ready for instant application. Truth is probably somewhere between two versions. Gen'l plan is doubtless ready, with details to be filled in . . . Guaranty Trust, of N Y recently surveyed business leaders to learn what's causing current gray hairs. Three top worries: fear of long-term confiscatory taxation; uncertainty as to where Administration's labor policy will eventually land business; distrust of centralization of power in the federal gov't—extending administrative powers and placing enforcement of powers outside the courts. . . . Congress will enact no important legislation before election.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"The resentment against strikes, already so marked among soldiers today, will not die down when they ret'n."—Att'y-Gen'l FRANCIS BIDDLE.

"If he votes the Republican ticket, his vote will be counted the same as any one else's."—JOHN W BRICKER, asked whether he would welcome the support of GERALD L K SMITH.

"I never can find a nickel when I need one."—NELLIE TAYLOR ROSS who, as director of U S mint, supervised making of 253,630,000 of 'em last yr.

"This is Radio Guam. Nothing heard from you since '41. Greetings."—Message sent by Col H NELSON, corps signal officer who came ashore with U S troops, already well along in reconquest of island.

"The 1st 50 were the hardest. Since I've become deaf I don't mind the metaphors." — GEO W ADAMS, 88 yrs old, who hasn't missed a graduation exercise at Gov Dummer academy, S Byfield, Mass, in 81 yrs.

"The people would be so outraged they would revolt and Hitler and his Argentine accomplices would be the 1st objects of their pent-up vengeance."—Dr DAVID EFRON, Argentine economist, discussing forecast that Hitler may seek haven in S America.

"They can go back to the Model A, or Model T, or even the ox-cart if they want to, but we are going ahead, the way we were before the war."—CHAS F KETTERING, head of Gen'l Motors research, stating that his Co has no intention of competing with Ford in production of a car to sell "around \$500."

"We plan to transform the 'old school tie' into a democratic cravat." —Spokesman for a British gov't committee of educators, announcing a blow at British caste system by opening famed "public" schools to 1st number of boys and girls outside the traditional "ruling class." Selections to be made on basis of records and character.

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Total war now will become a reality."—PAUL JOS GOEBBELS, Nazi propaganda minister, announcing a new "secret weapon" soon to be used.

"It is our obligation to preserve a land of opportunity, where a man can still build a great enterprise from the back of a garage."—Sen ALEXANDER WILEY, Wis, addressing a home-state audience.

"I've worked for bosses who scowl occasionally, but these monkeys are always making faces at me — and there are 100 of them."—A keeper at Chicago's Brookfield zoo, resigning his position for reasons noted above.

"I'd have done the same for a Democrat, a Socialist or a Communist."—VALENTINA, N Y dress designer, commenting on her special creation for Rep CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, who addressed the Republican Nat'l convention.

"The romance and adventure has gone out of gate-crashing . . . Now they've got dames on the gates, and no gentleman would take advantage of them."—JAS ("One-Eyed") CONNOLLY, undefeated champion gate-crasher, announcing his abdication at age 75.

"Less than 6000 men stand between the present shortage of tires and the ability to meet estimated requirements." — BRADLEY DEWEY, rubber director, announcing his resignation, effective Sept 1, because his work is "essentially completed." His recommendation: let WPB take over the job.

"Geo Washington didn't sleep here—but 3 million servicemen have, free of charge."—Sign in Chicago Servicemen's Center.

"He (Hitler) almost certainly will end up in some peaceful retreat—probably Dublin." — GEO BERNARD SHAW, Irish playwright, interviewed on his 88th birthday.

"The No 1 question submitted by servicemen to legal aid groups throughout the country is: 'How can I get a divorce?'" — Mrs MARGUERITE R GARIEPY, Legal Aid Bureau, United Charities of Chicago.

"We don't want to see Hitler murdered because his 'intuitive' leadership is one of our greatest assets." —BRENDAN BRACKEN, chief, British Ministry of Information.

"Don't wait until Hitler brings you to disaster. To fight Hitler is to fight for Germany."—Statement issued by 16 captured German gen'ls, now in Moscow. Group expresses conviction that further struggle by Germany is hopeless.

"The traditional war between Germany and Britain has always been conducted in a gentlemanly way until Stalin crept in uninvited."—Excerpt from one of several pamphlets, with which Germans are plastering countryside around Caen. (Allied response: "We were under the impression that Germans extended quite a pressing invitation to Stalin to participate, in June, '41.")

"Why you might have brought bombs in here!"—Sgt JOHN T CONNORS, a plain clothes policeman, chiding GEO M FISHER, Cook County (Ill) GOP chairman for unannounced entrance to Chicago's Servicemen's Center. (Fisher brought a 6x8 ft portrait of Candidate Dewey, "to be placed on the Center wall, beside the picture of Candidate Roosevelt." Mayor Kelly, intervening, explained that Roosevelt's picture was there "because he is our Commander-in-Chief." last accounts, Dewey portrait seeking a hospitable home.

"If I know a lady, I think she will prefer real silk stockings to artificial ones."—Dr H H KUNG, China's Finance Minister, discussing future of silk industry in postwar period.

"It shall be the avowed purpose of the CIO to lend every possible degree of support to the election of both Pres Roosevelt and the nominee for vice president, Sen Truman."—PHILIP MURRAY, pres, CIO.

"It is our hope that he will become addicted to the gentle art of tea drinking to soothe his nerves."—Japan Tea Drinking society, presenting to Ambassador HEINRICH STAHLER a rare tea dish for ADOLF HITLER.

"It was only a pep talk."—A German captain, taken prisoner near Caen. He was accused by fellow captives of ordering the execution of British soldiers after they surrendered. According to reports, he counseled his men: "You are going to fight for the glorious fatherland. You are going to triumph for the Fuehrer. You will take no prisoners."

"In any emergency, English or American troops would be welcome back. But we do not like to see foreign troops on our soil in peacetime. Any small nation would feel uncomfortable under such circumstances."—Prime Minister ASGEIR ASGEIRSSON, of Iceland, interviewed at the World Monetary conference in N H. His clear implication: Our troops will be invited to leave Iceland at war's end.

"We have billions tied up in public schools that are closed as soon as sessions end, because janitors don't want to be bothered with extra work. Think what these schools, with their gymnasiums, swimming pools, auditoriums, etc, would mean as recreational centers for children and their parents. Here we have made-to-order facilities at a time when they are badly needed as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency."—Miss HENRIETTA ADDITON, head, Westfield, N Y State Farm Reformatory for Girls.

"He sings with a beautiful voice, like a singing frog."—TOKIO RADIO in a broadcast describing the new premier, Gen KUNIYAKI KOISSO.

"Just think what it will do for my profession! Beards require close attention—frequent trimming."—FRANK ALLIOTTA, nat'l sec'y Master Barbers' ass'n, prophesying that homecoming servicemen will retain their luxurious facial adornment.

"The dumping of Henry A Wallace leaves the Negro deserted. Sen Truman's committee has defeated every attempt to secure just consideration for the Negro worker."—EDGAR G BROWN, director, Nat'l Negro Council.

"Prophecies are for cafe dilettantes."—Marshal PIETRO BADOGLIO, refusing to make definite forecast on end of European war. He added, however, that Reich officers know the war is lost and "There is no doubt that Germany is in a tragic moment."

"Some good may come of it."—Capt ROBT REHM, flight surgeon in Italy, on his 50th mission over enemy territory. Although his duties do not require him to leave the ground Cap't REHM makes these flights to learn about combat fatigue at 1st hand.

"If all men could hear the voice of God, and could know that they do, then indeed everything would be all right. The Creator's work on us would be finished and we'd not need to live in our bodies any longer."—BOOTH TARKINGTON, novelist, in an interview on eve of his 75th birthday.

"The most shocking thing about British newspapers is the interlarding of the news with opinions of the newspaper editor and his reporters . . . The 1st thing the reader knows he is swallowing this opinion, and if he isn't careful . . . is learning to like it."—J LOY MALONEY, managing editor, *Chicago Tribune*, reporting in *Editor & Publisher* on a recent visit to London.

"We expect to reduce Guam completely."—Com'dr HAROLD E STASSEN, quoted in San Francisco, after more than a yr in Pacific war zones.

"I am going to forget everything for 2 wks—but be sure to send me the newspapers."—MAYOR MCKELDIN, of Baltimore, off for a holiday in Maine.

"I eat and eat; I have two breakfasts every day, and still I can't get fat. Maybe it's just as well; the radio comics would be out of material if I did."—FRANK SINATRA.

"I wouldn't have cared whether he lost the nomination or not. It isn't like he went out and ran for the office. He did not want it. They shoved him into it."—MRS MARTHA TRUMAN, 91-year-old mother of Vice-Presidential nominee.

"This was a quiet war until you correspondents began showing up around here."—Lt-Col JAS H POLK, of Texas, on Normandy peninsula. Sharing a trench with several correspondents he complained that the writers "kept sticking their necks out too far," inviting enemy shell-fire.



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

Have We Outgrown
Conventions?

PAUL MALLON

Political conventions, in my studied opinion, are outmoded devices. They are the formulas of a bygone era of slow transportation and archaic communications.

Back in the time of the civil war, it may have seemed fitting and necessary for delegates to come from all parts of the country to discuss freely their purposes and ambitions, in order that a solid common ground of party understanding might be reached. It no longer works that way.

These things are half-political circuses, aimed at radio publicity. . . and frankly the delegates and their opinions no longer amount to much. The other half of these affairs is a planned mass deception, arranged usually by one man or a group of men on consort.

Some day, and not very far in the future, some one is going to abandon this stupid conventionality and provide an accurate method of mass expression. True, free primaries might fill the need. Uncoerced state and county conventions also could accurately express the mind of the people.

The trouble is not so much with the system as with the manner in which it has been corrupted for radio, for power politics, for single-headed leadership, for domination.

Formerly you could look to the radicals and intellectuals to resist such authoritarianism. But the radicals now are authoritarian. . . I cannot resist the feeling that I have attended the wake of Democracy.—*King Features.*

ACTION—Inaction

A great many of the difficulties in this world arise from the fact that we do not always clearly discern the distinction between a standby and a bystander.

APPEARANCE—Youthful

There is a group of women who. . . believe the old-wives' tale that a hard life filled with hard work makes a woman look old. This is not true. A work-filled life brings contentment, and contentment is a great youthifier.—PERC WESTMORE (Hollywood make-up artist) "How to Look 5 Yrs Younger," *She*, 8-'44.

ARMY—Training

There is a story to the effect that when Sgt Marion Hargrove, author of the best-seller, ret'd to the U S from India recently, he found his wife cleaning a window in their home.

"Who ever taught you how to clean windows?" snickered the sgt, rubbing his index finger across the glass pane. "You use too much water," and with that he took a chamois cloth and polished the window to a high and beautiful shine.

Shocked, poor Mrs Hargrove fainted. When revived she exclaimed to a friend, "How do you like that! Before he went overseas, my husband was so lazy he demanded that I paint all of the windows black so that we wouldn't have to wash them."—LLOYD SHEARER, "Should Men Do Housework?" *House Beautiful*, 8-'44.

CENSORSHIP

Penny-catching pornography apart, impurity lies in the receiving mind; the time may come when, just as in Paris, after street accidents, it was not the demon taxi-driver but the errant pedestrian that was arrested, so it will be not the offending volume but the offended reader that will be haled into court for an examination of his complexes.—FERRIS GREENSLET, *Under the Bridge, an Autobiography* (Houghton-Mifflin).

CHAUVANISM

An Army captain from the South wound up a bond-selling talk to his company with these handsome words: "And remember, men, these bonds will be good just as long as

No'the'n money is good."—*New Yorker*.

CHRISTIANITY—Evidence of

While the evangelist was giving the invitation for penitents to come forward, a 4-yr-old said, "Mom, I believe I'd better go, too."

"Why," said the mother, "aren't you a Christian, dear?"

"Well," said the little girl candidly, "I think I am; but you know there are times when I don't act like one at all."—*Protestant Voice*.

Padre Phrases

Chaplains in this war are proving the power of the catchphrase, the slogan, to win over our fighting personnel. A few examples:

Chaplain STANLEY EUGENE SMITH, stationed in Iran, converted a rusty ry caboose into a chapel. When a train is going his way, he hooks on, visits GI's in distant areas. Arriving at a camp, he tosses a towel over his shoulder, goes to the platform and calls: "Who wants to cry on my shoulder?" (*American Wkly*)

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Several chaplains in England hit on the idea of issuing T S ("Tough Situation") tickets. Now, a popular response to the chronic grouch or gripe is, "Go see the chaplain and get your ticket punched." — (*Milwaukee Jnl*)

QUENTIN REYNOLDS, in his talk to the Democratic convention, told of a chaplain, aboard one of the early invasion ships, who administered comfort to anxiety-ridden men. To his stateroom door he affixed the welcome sign: "Open All Night."

DETERMINATION

Sympathetic spectators watched the struggle of a youngster with a new pr of roller skates. Each stride ended in a hard tumble. One suggested, "Buddy, you are getting hurt. Why don't you give up and watch the others?"

The kid looked scornfully at his well-wisher: "I didn't buy these skates to quit with," he said, "I bought 'em to learn how with!"—*Magazine Digest*.

EDUCATION—Literature

The curricula of our schools and colleges have been made a kind of "hobby-lobby." Every impulse is now a "subject" . . . We have concocted an endless Christmas morning in which both teachers and pupils rush from one bright novelty to another . . . Gradually there has arisen the widely held tenet that literary studies, once a central part of education, may now be regarded as the luxurious appendages of man's training in a scientific, political world.—*Literature in American Education*, a pamphlet, ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY, Baltimore.

ENTERPRISE

A woman ordered 6 bottles of medicine from Sears, Roebuck, ret'd 4 a few wks later with the explanation that her husband had died before the entire lot could cure him. The company wrote back, expressing deep sympathy in her loss—and enclosing a tombstone catalog.—MARION WHITE, "The Billion-Dollar Idea," *The Woman*, 8-'44.

GOLF—and Diplomacy

Once at French Embassy gathering, when Baron Fain, Embassy counselor, inquired about my golf, I parried the question with another:

"Why is it, my dear Baron, that whenever a colleague, or a Japanese, opens a talk with me, instead of commenting on the weather, he asks about my golf?"

"Why, Mr Ambassador," the Baron replied "your golf is the thermometer which measures the temperature in the Diplomatic Corps. If a wk goes by without your playing golf, the fact is cabled to every chancellery the world over, for the situation is then indeed critical."—JOS C GREW, *Ten Yrs in Japan*, (Simon & Schuster).

GROWTH—thru Work

G o
R ight
O n
W orking.

INTELLIGENCE—Education

Intelligence appears to be the thing that enables a man to get along without education. Education appears to be the thing that enable a man to get along without the use of

his intelligence.—ALBERT EDW WIGGAM, *Let's Explore Your Mind* (syndicated newspaper feature).

LANGUAGE—American

To The Editor:

I see that some readers take you to task for using a preposition to end a sentence with. Well, that is nothing to worry about. Their criticism is based upon an old rule that few are guided by. In fact, it is a practice only old fogies stick to. It is a principle that we could get along without.

Imagine those fellows singling out an editor to pick on. You are not the one they should cast their aspersions at. Their poor, misguided teachers are the ones they should be thinking of. I'll bet that's where their misconception came from.—CHAS E BESS, Dep't of English, Jr College, Flat River, Mo, in a letter to editor of *St Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Tie-dings

Having heard of the 14 ticket-sellers at the Union bus station in Chicago who went on strike because they did not want to wear neckties, six American soldiers, stationed in France, dispatched this letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune:

"We believe it possible to find 14 men here who would shoulder their burden by a transfer of position. We do not wear ties—just steel helmet, gas mask, field pack, full cartridge belt, bayonet, and canteen, and carry a 9-lb rifle.

"Our working conditions are ideal—plenty of fresh air, running water in our fox holes, and daily entertainment sponsored by A Hitler.

"At the moment, a transfer is impossible due to a small job we must attend to. However, if these 14 chaps would care to join us, we are sure the job will be finished sooner."

MARRIED LIFE

"If a husband doesn't need watching," said a French woman of experience, "it is a waste of time to watch him, and if he does need watching, it is a waste of time to watch him."—*The Vagabond*.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

We have been asked what disposition the War Dep't purposes concerning the remains of war dead, now buried on foreign soil. According to present plan, at war's end, these bodies will be ret'd to U S at gov't expense. (It is manifestly impracticable to make this move while hostilities are in progress.) At one time, there was some talk of establishing and maintaining nat'l cemeteries abroad, but sentiment is now against it, since it is conceivable that such memorials might at some future date fall into enemy hands. As the program is now set up, next-of-kin will, in due course, be asked for final shipping instructions for the ret'n of the remains. Bodies unclaimed by relatives will be interred in memorial cemeteries in this country. This decision applies both to the European and the Pacific areas.

Forecasters of the business scene believe that an unprecedented number of personal service businesses will be launched with the coming of peace. They reason that many now employed have been husbanding their resources toward that end; that the older established firms have built up so much ill will due to poor service, incompetence and indifference of employees, etc, that the time will be ripe for many customers to seek new connections.

Gov't continues its admonition to housewives to can surplus fruits and berries, but the gen'l complaint is that only l'td quantities are available and these stocks are prohibitively priced. . . Shortage of popular-brand cigarettes will probably continue for duration of European war. Increased overseas shipments is biggest contributing factor.



APPAREL: Most of next yr's shoes will have rubber soles and heels. Army has 1st call on best leather, while synthetic rubber is coming into full production and gov't is channelling increasing quantity to shoe industry. (*McCall's*).

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INSECTICIDES: At last, there's really effective killer for one of toughest garden pests—Japanese beetle. It's a dust which kills beetle grubs. Apply spoonful on top of ground at 5 ft intervals in rows 5 ft apart. Harmless to people, plants, animals. One treatment lasts several yrs. (*Dep't of Agriculture*).

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INVENTION: New device, *axnograph*, saves labor of draftsmen, speeds production. By photographic process, makes 3-dimension drawing from 2-dimensional drawing. Such drawings mean more speed on assembly line; show more clearly how various parts fit together. (*Glenn L Martin Co.*)

" "

PRODUCTS: New water-repellent "wonder quilt" now standard equipment for our paratroopers, has many uses. Stuffed with chicken feathers, can be used as blanket or sleeping bag. Folded and tied around waist, it is life preserver. The straps along edges make it convertible into pup tent or hammock. Slit in center, it can be worn as poncho. Bright orange on reverse makes it useful for signalling. Packed in waterproof case that can be used for storing water. (*Forbes*).

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RADIO: Two-way radio will increase efficiency of taxis after war. Virtual elimination of "dead mileage" is predicted. (*Nat'l Ass'n Taxi-cab Owners*).

ORIGINS

In olden days women were prohibited from marrying until they spun a full set of bed furnishings. Thus, until marriage, they spent much time at the spinning wheel, and were, therefore, "spinsters."—*Gospel Advocate*.

PATRIOTISM—Ostentation

If we ret'g vets have a right to criticise, our complaint would be on the way patriotism is ballyhooed on the home front. Sure, war bonds, taxes, production records all are a valuable part of the war effort. Yet must people bedeck themselves with their patriotism? . . .

Our fighting men seldom mention the word "patriotism." They possess symptoms—we all do, deep down. They cherish the feeling that somehow the fight is worthwhile, regardless of cost and hardship. But these men don't like to see their ideas of patriotism being cheapened back home.—Sgt JACK FOISIE, "A Sgt's Report on the Nation," *N Y Times Mag*, 7-16-'44.

POLITICS—Third Party

One might think offhand that the Democrats and Republicans would welcome a third party, as a third party invariably attracts most of the screwballs. But the fact is, neither major party thinks it can afford to lose its screwball contingency, which runs into considerable numbers.—OLIN MILLER, *Chicago Sun Syndicate*.

PRAYER—Answer to

Some folks just don't seem to realize, when they're moaning about not getting prayers answered, that "NO!" is the answer.—NELIA GARDNER WHITE.

PROFIT

Profits may be wicked things, but our experience is that they meet the payrolls better than deficits.—*Asheville Tips*.

PSYCHIATRIST—Defined

A psychologist has been defined as a blind man in a pitch black basement looking for a black cat. A psychiatrist is that same man—on the same search—only the cat ain't there!—*Continental Record*, hm Continental Casualty Co.



The anomaly of our present system is that it penalizes those who work to improve their land and beautify their properties. Let a man improve his place and his taxes go up. His neighbor, who doesn't lift a finger, is taxed less because, in the bland language of the tax law, his is "unimproved" land.

Why not reverse the situation? Why not penalize with higher taxes the man who neglects his property and reward with lower taxes those who conserve their land and improve it?—RICHARDSON WRIGHT, "The Next Victory," *House & Garden*, 8-'44.

RACES—Japanese

Let the Japanese realize that they are being excluded from the family of nations, not because of their race or their nationality, but because of their behavior. They cannot change their race. They can change their behavior.—WALTER H JUDD.

SABBATH—Observance

Although they were partners in many financial deals, Jay Gould and Jim Fisk were never on especially friendly terms.

On one occasion a clergyman, talking with Fisk, was insisting that Mr Gould had his good points. "At any rate," he defended, "you must admit that he keeps the Sabbath."

"No doubt," said Fisk icily, "Mr Gould keeps everything he lays his hands on."

THOUGHT—Individual

What about the poll tax—the Negro vote—Japanese Americans—women in industry?

Have you thought thru these and kindred problems? Is so, you are on your way to becoming a useful American. Your part in shortening the period of coming chaos depends upon your not accepting, like a blue-plate dinner, the full-blown opinions of others. You must think for yourself, and think it thru.—WALLACE THORSEN, "Think Things Thru," *Printer's Ink*, 7-14-'44.

Love Comes to a Prima Donna

From the foothills of Tennessee to the footlights of the Metropolitan Opera House is a tortuous trail, but GRACE MOORE has made it joyously, if a bit jumpily. Now she tells her story in an engaging autobiography, *You're Only Human Once* (Doubleday, Doran, \$2.50). We give you here a glimpse of love on a liner:

Neysa McMein once said to me, "What are you interested in, outside of singing?"

"Love," I answered.

And who isn't?

Alec Woolcott said that marriage could not be a success unless the two people both have a sense of humor—or haven't. Val and I not only laugh and cry at the same things, we're bored with the same things too. And we avoided the disaster that happens to so many professional marriages because we met when our careers had taken direction. Val left a career in a bank to become the Valentino of Spain, a star and a director for UFA.

Fate seems to have had a great deal to do with Val and me. Both had originally booked passage on the *Paris*, cancelled, and sailed in May of '31 on the *Ile de France*.

As Constance Hope, then my sec'y, and I wearily mounted the gangplank, I said, "This career stuff is all right, but I hope something happens on this trip to take me away from just living for myself."

"If I were you I shouldn't worry," she said encouragingly, "something always happens to you."

We went at once to an upper deck, began idly playing some kind of lap game. Suddenly the game fell to the deck, scattered around us. A tall, dark handsome man who had been leaning against the railing courteously offered to help. Constance, recognizing the accent, said something to him in Spanish. I knew not one word of the language, could only look at him when he looked at me. He picked up the game for us and left. I turned to Hope and said, "That's the man I'm going to marry."

When the *Ile* had been out one day I became seasick for the 1st time in my life and remained in bed. In the ship's paper I saw each day

some reference to a man named Parera who was apparently having a huge social success. "Good heavens," I said to Constance, "do you think it is our young man from the top deck?" It was!

Later, Constance reported she had met the dark man again, and invited him to supper in the name of Grace Moore. He had declined, saying he had a previous engagement, then added, "What has happened to the little blonde with you?" "Oh," said Constance, "that's Grace Moore." At which, according to Constance, he had said in Spanish, "Oh my God, I got her name mixed up with another prima donna on the boat. In that case, I am free for supper." . . .

We talked thruout supper and later went to the top deck and saw the dawn come in, still talking. I must add that three-quarters of the conversation was in middling French, which we could both understand; the rest in Val's poor English, my non-existent Spanish, and sign language.

Val knew very little about me, I knew as little about him. We both agreed that night that neither had every wanted to marry before, but there was no doubt about the future. Neither wanted to leave the other again. We decided that dawn, before we said good night, that we would be married soon.

"I know," he said, "that you are romantic, but marriage is a profoundly serious thing. I am sure."

"I am sure, too," I answered. And so it was.

NOTE: The meeting which Miss MOORE describes here occurred in the late spring of 1931. She and Mr Parera were married on July 15 of that yr. They now live (when their respective careers permit) on a farm in Conn.



The Man Who Scorned a Throne

GEO WASHINGTON

Inevitably, in this election yr, with its authoritarian issue, there are those who will revive an earlier chapter in American history, when Col Lewis Nicola, and his associates, sought to crown Geo Washington as our ruling monarch. The subject was broached in a letter, to which Washington replied on May 22, 1782:

With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal.

Be assured, sir, no occurrence in the course of the war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army. . .

I am at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable; at the same time. . . I must add that no man possesses a more sincere wish to see ample justice done to the army than I do, and as far as my powers and influence, in a constitution, may extend, they shall be employed to the utmost of my ability to effect it, should there be any occasion.

Let me conjure you, then, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate, as from yourself or any one else, a sentiment of the like nature.

A minister in Independence, Mo. was recently explaining to his congregation the details of a new class for mothers. He had just concluded with an invitation to "bring your most difficult problems to the class with you," when a 4-yr-old almost broke up the meeting with her query, 'Mommie, won't you take me?'

" "

A colored woman saw for the 1st time a barrage balloon used as a promotion stunt in the recent War Bond campaign. "Look," she said to a companion, "they got it tied on a string." Then, as an afterthought, she suggested, 'I reckon some chil-lun's playin' wid it.'—*Atlanta Jnl.*



Wisecracks OF THE WEEK

It is agreed that Labor, Business and Agriculture will sit down together after the war. And if his laundry comes back, maybe the white-collar worker can make a fourth.—*Watchman-Examiner.*

" "

There was a man once who was really indispensable. But he has long been dead. His name was Adam.—*Religious Telescope.*

" "

Many wise words are spoken in jest—but they can't compare with the number of foolish ones spoken in earnest.

" "

Goebbels says the mounting difficulties of life in Germany will not dismay the Herrenvolk. A brave sight is the Berliner going on about his business as if it were still there.—*Sen SOAPER.*

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

LAUGHS WITH LEGISLATORS

Sen HARRY S. TRUMAN
of Missouri

I have not been classed as a story-teller, but I did listen to one recently over at York, Pa. where I was making a speech.

In a Pa Dutch family, the old gentleman had been very ill, and on a restricted diet. Finally one day the doctor told the family that the old man was going to die and they might as well let him have anything he wanted to eat.

So Mama, without of course repeating the doctor's dire forecast, went in to take Papa's order for supper. When, finally, the old man realized he could have anything he wanted, he asked for corned beef, fried potatoes and half a gallon of coffee. 'And,' he concluded, "you might be giving me a slice of that well-cured ham in the smokehouse."

"Ah, Papa," said the obedient frau, 'the corned beef, the fried potatoes and the coffee I am fixing yet, but the ham—ach, that we should save for the funeral.'

She never really had a chance, Long yrs had Annie waited, But when a camp sprang up nearby, Oh, boy, was animated!

London Opinion.

" "

And there is the interesting case of the picket who walked up and down a busy street, carrying a blank sign. "I'm on sustaining," he explained. "Looking for a sponsor."

" "

Aunt Melissa's definition of a paratrooper:

"He's a soldier what climbs down trees he never clumb up!"

Dunninger, the "Master Mentalist" of radio fame (his new book, *What's On Your Mind?* has just been published by World Book) has a standing offer of \$10,000 to anyone who can prove that he employs accomplices. He tells gleefully of a woman in the Bronx who glanced hastily at the display line of a poster: "DUNNINGER: \$10,000 REWARD!" and in an understandable confusion of personalities exclaimed, "Why I thought they caught that fellow long ago."

(By the way, Dillinger was killed by FBI 10 yrs ago last wk—July 24-'34.)

